

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A flexible pouch with a self-contained straw comprising:
2 a front panel and a back panel each having an upper edge, a lower edge
3 opposite said upper edge, and side edges extending therebetween said upper
4 and lower edges, wherein said front panel and said back panel are initially
5 joined together at said side edges and said lower edge to form the pouch;
6 a straw disposed inside the pouch, wherein said straw is positioned at an
7 angle between an upper corner of the pouch and an opposite lower corner;
8 a first seal applied to said upper corner of the pouch to form a pocket
9 for holding an upper end of said straw; and
10 a second seal extending along said upper edge of the pouch to close the
11 pouch.
- 1 2. A flexible pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first seal
2 has a generally inverted “U” shape.
- 1 3. A flexible pouch as set forth in claim 1, wherein the panel is
2 formed from a laminate material.
- 1 4. A method of forming and filling a flexible pouch with a self-
2 contained straw, said method comprising the steps of:
3 forming a panel having an upper edge, a lower edge opposite the upper
4 edge, and side edges extending therebetween the upper and lower edge;

5 joining two panels by sealing together their side edges and lower edge
6 to form the pouch;
7 opening the pouch;
8 inserting the straw into the pouch, wherein the straw is positioned at an
9 angle between an upper corner of the pouch and an opposite lower corner;
10 applying a first seal to the upper corner of the pouch to form a pocket
11 for holding an upper end of the straw;
12 filling the pouch with the product; and
13 applying a second seal extending along the unsealed portion of the
14 upper edge of the pouch to close the pouch.

1 5. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said first seal has a
2 generally inverted "U" shape.

1 6. A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the panel is formed
2 from a laminate material.

1 7. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of joining the
2 lower and side edges of the pouch together includes the step of sealing the
3 edges using a combination of heat and pressure.

1 8. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of separating
2 the panels further includes the step of directing a stream of compressed gas into
3 the pouch to forcibly separate the walls of the pouch.

1 9. A method as set forth in claim 4 further including the step of
2 finishing the pouch by trimming the upper edge, side edges and lower edge of
3 the pouch to a predetermined shape.

1 10. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said step of applying a
2 second seal further includes the step of sealing the unsealed portion of the
3 upper edges of the panels together using a combination of heat and pressure, to
4 seal the pouch.

1 11. A method of forming and filling a flexible pouch with a self-
2 contained straw, said method comprising the steps of:
3 forming a panel from a laminate material having an upper edge, a lower
4 edge opposite the upper edge, and side edges extending therebetween the upper
5 and lower edge;
6 joining two panels by sealing together their side edges and lower edge
7 using a combination of heat and pressure to form the pouch;
8 opening the pouch;
9 inserting the straw into the pouch, wherein the straw is positioned at an
10 angle between an upper corner of the pouch and an opposite lower corner;

11 applying a first seal to the upper corner of the pouch to form a pocket
12 for holding an upper end of the straw, wherein the first seal has a generally
13 inverted “U” shape;
14 filling the pouch with the product;
15 applying a second seal extending along the unsealed portion of the
16 upper edge of the pouch to close the pouch; and
17 finishing the pouch by trimming the upper edge, side edges and lower
18 edge of the pouch to a predetermined shape.

1 12. A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said step of
2 separating the panels further includes the step of directing a stream of
3 compressed gas into the pouch to forcibly separate the walls of the pouch.